

**§ 780.408 Facilities of system must be used exclusively for agricultural purposes.**

Section 13(b)(12) requires for exemption of irrigation work that the ditches, canals, reservoirs, or waterways in connection with which the employee's work is done be "used exclusively for supply and storing of water for agricultural purposes." If a water supplier supplies water for other than "agricultural purposes," the exemption would not apply. For example, the exemption would not apply where a portion of its water is delivered by the supplier to a municipality to be used for general, domestic, and commercial purposes. The fact that a small amount of the water furnished for use in his farming operations is in fact used for incidental domestic purposes by the farmer on the farm does not, however, require the conclusion that the water supplied was not exclusively "for agricultural purposes" within the meaning of the irrigation exemption in section 13(b)(12). Accordingly, if otherwise applicable, the exemption is not defeated merely because the water stored and supplied through the ditches, canals, reservoirs, or waterways of the irrigation system includes a small amount which is used for domestic purposes on the farms to which it is supplied. On the other hand, if the water supplier should maintain separate facilities for storing and supplying water for domestic use, it is clear that employees employed in connection with the maintenance or operation of such facilities would not be employed in activities to which the exemption applies. Water used for watering livestock raised by a farmer is "for agricultural purposes."

**§ 780.409 Employment "in connection with the operation or maintenance" is exempt.**

The irrigation exemption provided by section 13(b)(12) applies to "any employee employed \* \* \* in connection with the operation or maintenance of ditches, canals, reservoirs, or waterways" of an irrigation system which qualifies for the exemption. The employee, to be exempt, must be employed "in connection with the operation or maintenance" of the named facilities; other employees of the irriga-

tion system, not employed in connection with the named activities, are not exempt. The exemption may apply to employees engaged in insect, rodent, and weed control along the canals and waterways of the irrigation system.

**Subpart F—Employment or Agricultural Employees in Processing Shade-Grown Tobacco; Exemption From Minimum Wage and Overtime Pay Requirements Under Section 13(a)(14)**

INTRODUCTORY

**§ 780.500 Scope and significance of interpretative bulletin.**

Subpart A of this part 780 and this subpart F together constitute the official interpretative bulletin of the Department of Labor with respect to the meaning and application of section 13(a)(14) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, as amended. This section provides an exemption from the minimum wage and overtime pay provisions of the Act for certain agricultural employees engaged in the processing, prior to stemming, or shade-grown tobacco for use as cigar wrapper tobacco. As appears more fully in subpart A, interpretations in this bulletin with respect to provisions of the Act discussed are official interpretations upon which reliance may be placed and which will guide the Secretary of Labor and the Administrator in the performance of their duties under the Act. The exemptions provided in section 13(a)(6) of the Act for employees employed in agriculture is not discussed in this subpart except in its relation to section 13(a)(14). The meaning and application of the section 13(a)(6) exemption is fully considered in subpart D of this part 780.

**§ 780.501 Statutory provision.**

Section 13(a)(14) of the Fair Labor Standards Act exempts from the minimum wage requirements of section 6 of the Act and from the overtime provisions of section 7:

Any agricultural employee employed in the growing and harvesting of shade-grown